



Commission for a New Georgia and other GTA IT Initiatives Status and Agency Impact August 11, 2005

<i>IT Initiative</i>	<i>Status</i>
IT Efficiency and Modernization Project E-mail, servers and personal computers	<p>The project's purpose is to develop strategies for modernizing and improving the efficiency of e-mail, servers and personal computers. Agencies will be involved in the process.</p> <p>GTA hosted a project kick-off meeting for state CIOs on August 8, 2005.</p> <p>Much of the initial work will involve gathering information. State agencies will be asked to complete online surveys by September 8, 2005. GTA is conducting on-site surveys at a small number of agencies through September 15, 2005. Strategies and a recommended course of action for sharing hardware/software and lowering PC costs will be issued in October 2005.</p> <p>The first release of the Unified e-Mail Address Book will be available this summer. The address book was demonstrated to the state's CIO Council on August 9, 2005.</p>
Data center relocation	<p>Information systems are tentatively scheduled to be moved to the new data center in phases this fall. After a certain date, changes cannot be made to systems and applications until they are relocated to the new facility. These tentative "freeze dates" have been provided to state agency IT directors.</p> <p>Normal operations will be interrupted for up to 48 hours while equipment is actually being moved.</p>
State wide area network upgrade (MPLS)	<p>To date, more than 600 circuits at state agencies throughout Georgia have been upgraded to connect to the state's new wide area network, which is based on multi-protocol label switching (MPLS). The following upgrades are among those currently scheduled:</p> <p>113 circuits for Juvenile Justice by September 2005 192 circuits for Corrections by October 2005 56 circuits for Drivers Services by November 2005</p>

Consolidating procurement	Effective July 1, 2005, DOAS assumed responsibility for activities related to all procurements, including those for IT products and services. Centralizing state procurements at DOAS was mandated by HB 312. GTA continues to advise agencies about planning and preparing technology-related RFPs and to participate in evaluating vendor proposals.
Enhancing asset management	<p>Vendor responses to an RFP for an Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) system are currently being evaluated by teams of state agency representatives. Findings and recommendations of the evaluation teams will be presented to the EAM Steering Committee in November. A contract will be awarded in December.</p> <p>Fleet management will be implemented first.</p> <p>An advisory board will be formed later this year to advise the steering committee about implementation.</p>
Reducing cost of IT consulting contracts	GTA is developing a statewide policy requiring use of the IT staffing contract, currently held by Comsys, for engaging temporary technical consultants. The policy will outline when the contract should be used by agencies and include provisions for requesting exceptions or waivers.
Independent Verification & Validation (IV&V) to confirm feasibility of technology projects by an outside, independent expert	<p>GTA adopted a statewide policy in July 2005 requiring IV&V for technology projects costing \$1 million or more. GTA briefed the state's CIO Council about the new policy on August 9.</p> <p>The policy conforms to House Resolution 1263 and Senate Resolution 754. It gives agencies the flexibility to use GTA or an outside IV&V consultant for projects costing \$1-\$5 million. Only an outside IV&V consultant can be used for projects exceeding \$5 million. A list of pre-approved IV&V consultants is available on GTA's Web site.</p>
Agency Project Reviews (APR)	GTA is holding training sessions during August 2005 in the new review process for agency technology projects. The new process and review schedule became effective July 1, 2005. They seek to make more information about technology projects available earlier in the planning process so agencies can take advantage of economies of scale, share resources more readily and avoid unnecessary duplication. Some project reviews will take place in conjunction with OPB's review of agency budgets for FY 2007.